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Book Keview

Vanished, by Fletcher Knebel (Doubleday): Knebel, who is somewhat of a specialist in the novel of Washington intrigue ("Seven Days in May," which he wrote with Charles W. Bailey II, and "Night of Camp David"), offers as his latest entry in the genre an absorbing suspense novel.

suspense novel.

The title refers to the disappearance of Stephen Greer, a close associate of a future U.S. President facing a reelection campaign. Greer walked away from the fourth green at the exclusive Burning Tree Club and was seen no more. His sudden exit prompted a buzz of rumor, particularly when it was learned that he had been secretly meeting a brilliant young mathematician and had been in occasional touch with a Nobel Prize physicist—both of whom have also vanished.

From the outset, it is apparent that high-level interests are involved. The FBI, called in on the assumption that Greer may have been kidnapped, is forced to work under wraps, and even Gene Culligan, the President's press secretary and narrator of much of the book, is kept in the dark.

The intervention of the CIA, against the express order of the White House, brings Knebel's "President Roudebush" head to head with the politically potent agency chief.

Knebel has clothed his story in meticulously detailed reality.

It would be against the rules of the reviewing trade to reveal the end of a novel of this type, but it can fairly be said that it

is unexpected—and, alas, not

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